

MONROE CITY DEMOCRAT

Volume XXXII

Monroe City, Missouri, Friday, November 28, 1919

Number 34

TO DEMOCRAT READERS

With this issue the Democrat is forced to discontinue publication until the paper situation is cleared up, and it is possible to get print paper. One month ago the Democrat contracted for a six month's supply of news print to be shipped on December 1. We bought that amount thinking that by that time some kind of stable market might be reached and that possibly a lower price might be obtained. Whether or not the wholesale house had the paper on hand when our order was taken we do not know, but on Monday of this week we received a letter stating it would be impossible to make shipment as per schedule, in fact they could not make a sure offer of anything in the future. Telephone calls to St. Louis and Quincy brought the same report—no paper. It is a situation the publisher can not overcome. The Democrat will resume publication when paper can be procured, and in the mean time the office will remain open and take care of the job department which will be given our entire attention.

The following taken from the Publishers' Auxiliary, the best authority on print paper, gives some light on the situation:

The past week has brought about no material change in the news print paper situation unless it is to make it worse so far as the users of sheet print and the smaller users of roll print are concerned. Mill owners are profiting to the limit on what President Glass of the Newspaper Publishers' Association calls an "auction market."

There is a print paper shortage that will run about 200,000 tons for the year, and manufacturers are taking full advantage of the conditions this shortage has caused. Standing behind the aged law of supply and demand they are permitting the publishers to bid against each other as each of the big fellows makes effort to get all, and a little more, than they will need to maintain the maximum size of their publications and in this way the manufacturers are getting the full benefit of tremendous profits. They are not making a price based on what it costs to make print paper plus a fair and reasonable profit, simply taking all the publishers will offer.

To be sure, one of the largest of the manufacturing companies has offered a fixed price for the first three months of 1920, provided the publisher who accepts it has been one of their regular customers, and provided also that he will sign a waiver for all claims he may have against the mill for not complying with the price agreement made with the attorney general in 1917. Such a proposition is an excellent thing for the manufacturer, for the price to be charged is considerably more than 100 per cent above the 1914 and 1915 price, and to get even that price for a period of three months only the publisher must sign away all chance of getting back any of the excess he has paid over and above the agreed price of 1917. During that three months the publisher is limited as to the tonnage he can buy, and is not even assured of enough to meet his current requirements, or, in fact is not assured of any specific amount of tonnage.

Current quotations are still ranging all the way from seven to thirteen cents for roll print, with a higher price of anywhere from one-half to one cent a pound for sheet

print, and with a constantly decreasing supply from the mills.

There is a valid reason for the decreasing supply found in the coal situation. One of the big mills of the country, a mill that works almost exclusively on sheet print, reported on Tuesday that it would have to shut down by Thursday if it could not get additional coal. The conditions at this mill can be duplicated at a large number of others, and unless a remedy is quickly found for the coal situation it is almost a certainty that half the mills in the country will be closed within the next two weeks.

No one can do anything more than guess at the paper prices of the immediate future, but those who claim to be on the inside are guessing that the top in paper prices has not been reached, and that the "auction market" conditions will continue, with a constantly increasing price. They are also guessing that the small consumer who can not deal direct with the mill, or with mill brokers, are very likely not to get paper at all.

Helena, Ark., evidently does not believe in allowing riots to prosper in their community. One hundred and eleven negro rioters are being tried and convicted as fast as the court can handle their cases. Eleven have been sentenced to electrocution and others probably will follow, consequently rioting will not be popular at Helena in the future.

School Benefit

A new Catholic school building is to be erected in Monroe City in the near future and as a means of assisting to raise funds for the purpose it has been arranged to give a benefit show at the Star Theatre Friday night, December 5. The Democrat printed tickets yesterday for this purpose and they will be on sale on and after Thanksgiving day. It has not been decided at this date just what program will be shown, but we are assured it will be well worth the price of admission which has been placed at 15c and 25c.

Several alarmists among the religious workers of the country are declaring that unless the church fails to meet the challenge of today its usefulness has ended. Nothing of the kind. The church isn't a patent medicine that is guaranteed to cure all ills. All that it seeks to do or agrees to do is to regenerate men who will accept it and make it a great instrument in spreading good among men. It stands there ready for men to make use of it when they will.

Miss Viola James, of Perry, and Mr. Ole Johnson, of this city, were married in Hannibal Sunday afternoon. Judge Totsch performing the ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson left for a short trip through Iowa. They will make their home with the groom's parents Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Johnson in this city.

Ballard's Statement

The Democrat this week gives the statement of Harold Ballard, whose name was mentioned last week in these columns in connection with the Robey-Robinson Lumber office burglary. In this statement gives his movements on the night in question as follows:

"Monday night, November 17, 1919, I went to Henderson & Sons poultry house and worked until about 8 o'clock. I went home, changed clothes and went to Star Theatre. After the show I walked up to Mr. Wood's drug store, I turned around and went home and to bed about 10 o'clock. Shortly after that my brother, Charley, came in and went to bed—we sleep together. Tuesday night I was with the crowd when they started from Mr. Robey's lumber yard with the blood hounds. They went down the railroad track where they picked up my brother's trail who had only gone past about twenty minutes before on his way home from the school house where he had been to practice for an entertainment the Freshmen Class are going to have. The hounds came past the depot, on across to the next corner, out into the road, across the corner of a vacant lot out into the alley, up through the back way to my father's home; they went to the kitchen door, just as Paul had come in. The side door was not locked, the dogs pushed the door open; my father jumped out of bed and closed the door and put a chair against it thinking the dogs would come in; the dogs did not offer to go over to the next house where I sleep, but went out in the yard and picked up a bone—the men could do nothing with them. They finally got the dogs away from the bone and they came out on the walk where I was standing and smelled the blood on my shoes that I had been picking chickens in. Now, Mr. Robey wants me to confess to something that I know nothing about.

HAROLD E. BALLARD"

Wool Imports Doubled

Imports of wool during the five-year prewar period, 1910-1914, averaged 207,583,742 pounds annually, or something less than half the present imports, according to the Bureau of Markets of the United States Department of Agriculture. As the population of the United States has been increasing so have the imports of wool. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918, this country imported 379,129,934 pounds. During 1919, the total importation amounted to 424,414,644 pounds, or more than double the prewar average. From January to August, inclusive, of the present year (eight months) more wool was imported than during any of the prewar years mentioned, and if the present average monthly imports of 36,238,982 pounds is maintained throughout the remaining months of this year, the United States will import more than 430,000,000 pounds during the present calendar year.

Most people would be a little more enthusiastic about pushing American trade abroad if the men who will be the chief beneficiaries of it were not inclined to use this as an opportunity for holding up prices in this country. They are selling abroad in a market that must have what they offer at high prices, and because they can get these prices abroad they demand them at home.

Misses Laura Bell and Maud Evans went to Quincy Monday.

The Holiday Trade

What useless truck used to be distributed as Christmas gifts! Men had fancy calendars and embroidered necktie holders and scented shirt cases, and one could not begin to enumerate the futile frivolities with which the women showered each other. Housewives had gaudily bound books for the parlor tables which were never read because the reading matter was worthless.

There were vases that would hold no flowers, drinking pitchers that had false tops and would hold no water, bric-a-brac in limitless amount, much of it ugly and all of it imposing a laborious penalty of care taking. Houses were littered from top to bottom with this futile stuff.

You had to exclaim over it when you got it, and pretend it was just the thing you had been longing for. Then when you got home, you chucked it into the dump at the earliest possible moment.

To day the great majority of the holiday gifts are substantial and useful articles, that people really want. No Christmas gift is worth making, unless it has some practical use or permanent beauty for home decoration. In the case of children it is hard to draw a positive line. But in a general way a toy that won't give good solid wear isn't worth giving. The most suitable gifts for the youngsters are those that help them develop physically and mentally.

Anyone who looks over the stores of Monroe City must be impressed with the progressive manner in which they follow this spirit of the times. They are full of honest and beautiful objects, that will bring happiness and comfort, and make Christmas a day of real ministry to each other's desires.

Miss Della Wimsatt was in Quincy Tuesday.

Miss Edna Noland spent Tuesday in Hannibal.

Miss Ethel Hagan was shopping in Hannibal Tuesday.

B. F. Wunch, of Hannibal spent the week end with J. O. Wade and wife.

Mrs. Geo. Howe and Mrs. Ben Christian were among the Hannibal visitors Monday.

Mrs. Vesper Buell visited from Saturday to Tuesday with her sister, Mrs. Mark Smith, of near Hunnewell.

Mrs. L. Wolf, of Quincy, returned to her home Saturday after a visit at the home of Mrs. Mathew Blickhan.

Mrs. Ethel Blodgett, of St. Louis, returned to her home Tuesday after visiting her granddaughter, Mrs. C. A. Noland.

Mrs. Chas. Evans has returned from visiting her granddaughter, Miss Wilma Ellen Whitchurch at Sullivan, Mo.

Mrs. S. J. Melson returned to her home at Jacksonville, Fla., after visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Crawford.

Miss Lottie Montgomery went to Quincy Tuesday to see her brother-in-law, Elmer Vaughn, who is ill in a hospital at that place.

Mrs. A. Leibungatt and children, of Burlington, Ia., who have been visiting her father, H. Behne, returned to their home Monday.

Mrs. Geo. Hardy, of California, and Mrs. Oscar Hardy, of Hannibal, returned to their homes Monday after a weeks visit at the home of S. S. Hampton.

HALBACH-SCHROEDER CO.

MAINE AND
FIFTH STS.

"Store of Quality"

QUINCY
ILLINOIS.

Preparing for Christmas to Spread Real Happiness

—IT IS EASIEST AT—

The Big White Store

Because the assortments here are larger than at any other store in this section of the country—and the prices here are lower. Prices are lower here than elsewhere because we buy in larger quantities than any other store in this section—buy for less, and, the most natural thing in the world—we can and do **SELL FOR LESS!**

Suits, Coats, Dresses, Dry Goods, Yard Goods, Accessories

You will find them here in the most beautiful assortments, the newest style and color creations, in finest qualities, very newest effects.

Use the Mail System

REMEMBER, The Big White Store is prepared with an expert shopper service, and you can buy by mail just as satisfactory as though you came to Quincy. The Big White Store is just as near you as your nearest mail box. Test this service. Everything you buy here must give satisfaction. You owe it to yourself to take advantage of the savings and service offered you here.